WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cleaning method for cleaning a developer container, comprising:

a step of blowing air through an opening formed in said developer container at a first flow rate;

a step of sucking air through the opening at a second flow rate which is larger than the first flow rate;

wherein while said blowing and suction steps are being simultaneously carried out, ambient air is permitted to enter said developer container through an ambient air inlet.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said ambient air inlet is disposed at the position opposite from said opening with respect to a longitudinal direction of said developer container.

3. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of inserting an air nozzle into said developer container.

4. A method according to Claim 3, wherein the air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said air nozzle at different positions

with respect to a circumferential direction of said air nozzle.

5. A method according to Claim 3, wherein in said inserting step, and one first and second air nozzles are inserted, and the air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports of the first air nozzle in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of said air nozzle, and the air is blown through an air blowing port provided at a longitudinal end of the second air nozzle in a longitudinal direction of the second air nozzle.

6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein a blowing rate of the first air nozzle is larger than a blowing rate of the second air nozzle.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step and suction step are carried out simultaneously while said developer container is rotated.

8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step and said suction step are carried out simultaneously while reciprocating said developer

container in a longitudinal direction thereof.

9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step is carried out after start of said suction step.

10. A recycling method for recycling a developer container, comprising:

a step of removing first and second sealing members sealing first and second opening openings provided in said developer container;

a step of blowing air through an opening formed in said developer container at a first flow rate;

a step of sucking air through the opening at a second flow rate which is larger than the first flow rate;

a step of filling a developer into said developer container;

instead of mounting said first and second sealing members to seal said first and second openings;

wherein wherein while said blowing and suction steps are being simultaneously carried out, ambient air is permitted to enter said developer container through an ambient air inlet.

11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said ambient air inlet is said second opening disposed at a position opposite from said first opening with respect to a longitudinal direction of said developer container.

12. A method according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of inserting an air nozzle into said developer container.

13. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of said air nozzle.

14. A method according to Claim 12, wherein in said inserting step, and one first and second air nozzles are inserted, and the air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports of the first air nozzle in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of said air nozzle, and the air is blown through an air blowing port provided at a longitudinal end of the second air nozzle in a longitudinal direction of the

second air nozzle.

15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein a blowing rate of the first air nozzle is larger than a blowing rate of the second air nozzle.

16. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step and suction step are carried out simultaneously while said developer container is rotated.

17. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step and said suction step are carried out simultaneously while reciprocating said developer container in a longitudinal direction thereof.

18. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step is carried out after start of said suction step.